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Factors Affecting Telephone Service in the USSR

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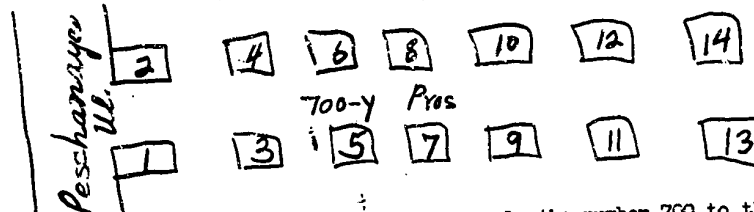
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In order to understand the address Peschanaya Ul - 700-y-Pr, Korp 1,2,3.....13, 14, it is first necessary to understand the following: On Peschanaya Ul are located large groups of buildings arranged in rows in the form of "prospects" opening into Peschanaya Ul, (see figure below).



The Moscow City Executive Council decided to apply the number 700 to this "prospekt". This does not indicate that the city of Moscow has up to 700 various prospekts. For example, the office of the Minister for the Maritime Fleet of the USSR, Novikov, was located at number 620 in the building occupied by the Ministry of the Maritime Fleet along Zhdanovskaya Ul (formerly Rozhdestvenka Ul) at number 1. This means that the Minister occupied room 20, 6th floor. The first figure of the number of the room of the Ministry indicates the number of the floor.

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The majority of double or fractional numbers for homes indicate that the house is located at the intersection of two streets. For example, Chkalovskaya Ul 21/2 stands on the corner of Chkalovskaya Ul at number 21 and is also number 2 on an intersection street. House number 3/5 on Zhdanova Ul, which also happens to be the Savoy Hotel (Tel B 8-25-88) is located on the corner at number 3 Zhdanova Ul and number 5 on Pushechnaya Ul. There are, however, occasions when a large building may be assigned a fractional number, as for example, the house at 110/112 Sh Entuziastov and the building at 32/34 Leningradskaya Sh.

It is not possible to explain the apparent regularity in the numbering system (that is to say, the close sequence in the fractional numbers). In attempting to determine whether or not a house with a fractional number is a corner house one must consider the following:

- (a) The possibility of a large number of rooms or apartments in the building, up to 150 or more, and
- (b) The numbering system used for the neighboring buildings as well as the general character of buildings on that particular street (that is to say, are they single numbers, amalgamated numbers /sostavnoya/ or fractional numbers.)

In pre-World War II Leningrad, homes which had two numbers but which were not located at intersections, were not numbered according to the fractional method, but were numbered using a "dash", for example: Prospekt Maksim Gor'kiy (formerly Kronbergskiy), house number 26-28 and not 26/28. Such double numbers, however, were very rare in Leningrad, even in Moscow such double numbers are rare. For a more complete understanding of this pattern it is best to compare a city plan of Moscow with an old telephone book.

The letter "m" is an abbreviation for "most" but the word "most" does not stand for the formal meaning of the word, that is to say, bridge, for example, is an organic part of the street name, Kuznetskiy most (Ul).

The word "zastava" has an historical significance. In olden times, barriers in the form of picket posts were established in the suburbs of cities. These barriers were placed across all important roads leading into the city. The road at the city line was barred by a toll gate /shlagbaum/ and close to it there was a police post. At this spot, or barrier, people going into town were checked and tolls, if any, were paid. At the present time in Moscow there are no "zastavs" in the formal sense of the word. But, based on history, this word is still applied to streets or regions in the town, which are located on or near spots where formerly "zastavs" existed.

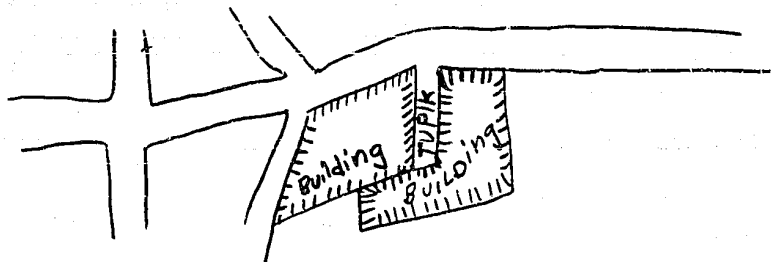
The word "tupik" (blind alley) means exactly that, blind alley. In Moscow there are many streets which end as blind alleys. If one enters such a street, when one reaches the end, forward progress is stopped and further progress is possible only by retracing one's steps to the nearest intersecting street.

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The word "ploschad" is properly interpreted as a square. This is an area in town which is relatively free of buildings. Several streets generally open into a square. At times the square is landscaped and contains a garden and at other times is just a regular square. As, for example, the square facing the Bolshoi Theatre at Ploschad imeni Sverdlova in Moscow.

The word "prosek" in its formal sense means a lane which has been hewn out of the woods for the transportation of lumber. Its use in a telephone book, however, implies the following: In suburban areas, in the woods, "proseks" were made. After that the "proseks" were cleaned up, widened, and houses were built on them, so that "prosek" developed into an ordinary street. But the original designation "prosek" remains, calling attention to the historical origin of this street.

The word "proyezd" indicates that the routes are rather short and narrow thoroughfares for vehicular traffic between two rayons, squares, or streets. For example, "Proyezd Serov". The word "proyezd" in the telephone book has a meaning which differs from the word "proyezd" in the military (komandnogo) character "proyezd zakryt", (route is clear).

The word "pereulok" means a small street joining any two larger streets. The word "ulok" is derived from the word "ulitsa". "Pereulok" implies a connection between one street and another. The prefix "pere" when attached to a word means a "changing" place or purpose. Colloquially, the word "proulok" is at times used for the word "pereulok".

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The city of Moscow is surrounded by a large number of suburban settlements or hamlets which are located within a radius of 25-30 km from Moscow. A connection between these towns and the city proper is maintained by electric trains, bus, or sometimes trolleys. Some of these settlements are located within the city limits as well as beyond the city limits. "Perovo Pole", "Khoroshevo", etc are suburban areas and settlements.

The addresses given as examples are explained as follows:

"Bogorodskoye Voyennyy Gorodok" means that in the settlement of "Bogorodskoye" close to or in the suburbs of Moscow there is a military settlement.

"Alekseyevskiy Stud Gor" implies that in one settlement in Moscow students of several institutes and tekhnikums are residing. This common living area is then termed a "Stud Gor".

In "Khoroshevo" there is an Ul Gor'kovo. This has nothing in common with the Ul Gor'kovo in Moscow itself, and moreover, there is no connection between these two streets. These streets may be termed one family streets (ulitsy - odnofamil'tsy). In Moscow there are three separate areas bearing the name Gor'kiy - Ul Gor'kovo, Pereulok Gor'kovo and Naberezhnaya Gor'kovo. Similarly, there is in Perovo a Proletarskaya Ul, but again this has nothing in common with the Proletarskaya Ul in the city of Moscow.

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"ITR gorod" stands for "Inzhenerno-Tekhnicheskikh Rabotnikov Gorodok". During the early years of the first Five-Year Plan, that is to say, 1931, 1932, and 1933, there was much construction of such engineering and technical workers' settlements. At the present time the original purpose for which these settlements were constructed has passed and today the mere designation "gorod ITR" does not indicate that either engineering or technical personnel lived there. For example, in the town of Astrakhan in the so-called "ITR Dom" today there live workers who work in the City Executive Council, the Oblast Executive Council, the MVD and MGB. Thus, it can be seen that the people who live there now are, strictly speaking, not engineering and technical workers. This same situation holds true for other towns and Moscow is no exception.

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Dubrovskaya 1-ya Ul d/tr means that along Dubrovskaya 1-ya Ul several homes have been constructed by authority of some cooperative enterprise for purposes of housing its workers.

In the USSR there is a category of citizens who have for their use during the summer period a "dacha". "Dachas" belong to the state and in many cases to private individuals. In the suburbs of Moscow there are many scenic "dacha" settlements where residences are numbered, not as house number so-and-so, but "dacha" number so-and-so. For example, Serebryanoy Bor, Dacha number 153.

In this case, both names apply to the same person. One of the family names is the real name of the person, whereas the other is a pseudonym. In this case "Moiseyev" is the pseudonym.

"Kvartirnyye telefony individual'nogo pol'zovaniya are intended for use by all people occupying an apartment. In the USSR there are many housing arrangements of this type (particularly in Moscow and Leningrad), where several families live in one apartment. Each family is assigned one room. For example, in apartment 45 at number 4 Gor'kiy Ul there are eight rooms which open onto a common corridor. In these eight rooms live eight families numbering about 20-25 people. The telephone for public use in this case is generally located in the common corridor so that any one of the eight families can use this particular telephone.

When one wants to call somebody on a public telephone, it is necessary to know the exact address of the person being called.

At the end of World War II, 1941-1945, there was a resolution of the Government to restore in the so-called "hero cities", such as Moscow, Leningrad, and Stalingrad, former names for its streets and squares. This resolution was, with few exceptions, carried out. In Moscow many streets bearing pre-Revolutionary names were restored. In Leningrad, also, the older designations of streets were restored; for example: Prospekt 25 Oktyabrya, which was renamed Nevskiy Prospekt. In Moscow, after the death of Zhdanov, Rozhdestvenka Ul was renamed Ul Zhdanova.

A list of street names from the present telephone book, together with a Moscow City map, will permit with sufficient accuracy a definition of the location of various points on the map.

[redacted] an explanation of the directory for the Moscow telephone network. In Moscow, as in other cities of the USSR, wide use is made of the basic system of telephone extensions and switchboards. There are several types to consider.

Independent Extension Numbers

In several areas (usually those having a dense network), substations are set up which have extension numbers. A telephone call is made indirectly. First, one must dial the basic number, eg, "1-25-00". When the substation answers, one asks for the extension number, eg, "2-35". Sometimes the main station will answer after the basic number has been dialed. This makes it necessary for one to ask for the substation and, once one has the substation, the extension may be obtained as above. The numbers are set up on a geographical basis so that persons having nothing whatever in common could have the same main number or substation number.

Office Switchboards (hand or automatic telephone stations)

(a) If the office switchboard number is included in the city telephone system network, one can dial the switchboard number of the given establishment and from the switchboard ask for the extension of the person with whom one wishes to speak. For example: the Ministry of River Transport in Moscow has the switchboard number K-0-29-80. One dials this number and then asks for the necessary extension. The extension number will have three digits, eg, "7-54". These switchboard numbers are in the phone book and also can be obtained by dialing N 09 which is the "Information Service" of the city of Moscow.

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(b) If the office switchboard number is not included in the city telephone, one must call the "Information Service" of the given establishment. The "Information Service" of the City of Moscow cannot give the number. For example: The Ministry of Sea Transport has as its "Information Service" number K 1-52-00. This service will give one the switchboard number and from there one can get the proper party.

Extension numbers from an office switchboard are assigned to one office or establishment and also to other organizations which have a direct connection with the given office. Such an extension can be within one building or in several buildings

Parallel Extensions

This occurs when an additional telephone is set up on the same hookup and given the same number as the original telephone. These telephones can even be in different buildings and belong to different organizations. According to the rules, only two phones should be on a parallel hookup but this rule is frequently violated. Sometimes four telephones are on the same hookup.

Since telephones on the same hookup ring simultaneously, a system is worked out whereby the number of rings determines which particular telephone should be answered.

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